

February 2004

SOUTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Phil Tilt

## Overview

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In February 2004, the Southern Command percentage of authorized traffic sergeant and trooper positions, again increased. Four cadets assigned to the lateral academy graduated, 14 cadets assigned to the recruit academy are continuing their basic training, and one trooper was reinstated, decreasing the vacancy rate to 14.8% of the authorized traffic positions as compared to an approximate 39% vacancy rate in February 2003. While the vacancy rate was reduced substantially, in February the Southern Command, lost a total of nine personnel; four to the North Las Vegas Police Department, two to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, one resignation for personal reasons, and two out of the lateral academy. The percentage of authorized sergeant and trooper positions assigned to Commercial Operations is 100%, as compared to an approximate 53% vacancy rate in February 2003. Although the Highway Patrol has filled a number of vacancies for the Southern Command, these troopers are yet to be deployed in the field. Effectively, this means the Southern Command Traffic Operations is still severely under staffed. These new personnel must successfully complete their initial training and gain a basic level of operational experience. However, if we continue to lose experienced personnel to other local agencies, we will continue to struggle with a substantial lack of personnel working the road. There were two new dispatchers hired in February, filling two of the 18 vacant dispatch positions. The current dispatch recruitment has resulted in the receipt of 39 applications, which meet the basic employment requirements. The Center will continue to struggle with the lack of manpower until the vacant positions are filled and the personnel are trained.

Southern Command personnel handled 1026 crashes during February 2004 as compared to 862 total crashes in February 2003. This was an increase of 19%. There were a total of 6 fatal crashes in February 2004 and 6 people died compared to 5 fatal crashes in February 2003 where 5 people died. The Southern Command documented a 24% decrease in the overall number of commercial vehicle crashes. We investigated 53 total commercial crashes in the month of February 2004 compared to 70 in February 2003. Of the commercial crashes investigated this month, there were 0 fatalities, 8 resulted in injuries, and the remainders were property damage only. Crashes involving commercial vehicles represented 5% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command in February 2004. Commercial Operations will continue to focus on hazardous moving, and out-of-service violations which cause or contribute to crashes.

The Southern Command continues to see positive improvements. These improvements are reflected in the overall activity level. Southern Command increased DUI, prior to crash, enforcement in February 2004 by 61.3% and total persons arrested by 9.1% as compared to February 2003. Southern Command Commercial Operations is struggling in their activity in many areas when compared to February 2003. Commercial Operations has lost 4 positions to special assignments and currently seven Commercial troopers that are assigned to temporary duty with Traffic Operations. Commercial Operations did increase substantially in overall activity as compared to January 2004. Southern Command personnel continue to perform their duties under increasing work loads in a professional manner and I continue to commend their hard work and dedication.

SOUTHERN COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	February-04		February-03	% Change		January-04	% Change
Total Crashes	1026		862	19.0%		929	10.4%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	769		620	24.0%		663	16.0%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	251		237	5.9%		256	-2.0%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	6		5	20.0%		10	-40.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	32		41	-22.0%		49	-34.7%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	6		5	20.0%		12	-50.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		1	100.0%		3	-33.3%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		0	100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		3	-66.7%		6	-83.3%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	2		1	100.0%		1	100.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0.0%		2	-200.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	53		70	-24.3%		66	-19.7%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	45		52	-13.5%		51	-11.8%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	8		17	-52.9%		13	-38.5%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		1	-100.0%		2	-200.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes	0.6%
Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes	3.1%
Percentage of persons killed <i>without</i> seatbelts to total persons killed	50.0%
Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes	4.0%

During the month of February, the Southern Command had an increase in number of injury and property crashes, compared to February 2003. The increase in crashes can be attributed to the following:

- Record precipitation year to date, with rain recorded for 8 days in a 9 day period.
- Major construction continuing on the highways within the Las Vegas Valley.

Within the first three days of rainfall during February, the Southern Command responded to 293 crashes. This contributed to the 19% increase in crashes from February 2003 as compared to February 2004.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	February-04		February-03	% Change		January-04	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	32		41	-22.0%		49	-34.7%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	150		93	61.3%		121	24.0%
Other Arrests	733		704	4.1%		642	14.2%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) #	337		309	9.1%		344	-2.0%
Speed violations	2520		3356	-24.9%		3125	-19.4%
Hazardous moving violations	1789		1976	-9.5%		1895	-5.6%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	558		604	-7.6%		630	-11.4%
Total violations [above violations included]	8586		9505	-9.7%		9859	-12.9%
<b>COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	41		51	-19.6%		30	36.7%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	228		241	-5.4%		137	66.4%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	533		723	-26.3%		411	29.7%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	7		DNA	#VALUE!		DNA	#VALUE!
Total safety violations -- citation	226		385	-41.3%		194	16.5%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1695		2864	-40.8%		1582	7.1%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	117		111	5.4%		188	-37.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	71		121	-41.3%		71	0.0%
Total school buses inspected	385		125	208.0%		133	189.5%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	66		27	144.4%		15	340.0%
Total trucks weighed	204		320	-36.3%		167	22.2%
Total overweight citations	52		40	30.0%		45	15.6%
Total dyed fuel inspections	535		723	-26.0%		412	29.9%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%

\*Seatbelt and child restraint

## Commercial Operations Activity Included

### TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

During February, the Southern Command experienced a drop in overall enforcement activity as compared to February 2003. This drop in activity is directly related to the following:

- An increase in crash investigation time
- An increase in training hours

In February 2004, training hours increased by 88.8% from February 2003. This increase equates to 90 work days lost to training.

*Commercial Field Enforcement Analysis reference page 8*

## STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Total Authorized Positions		Current Positions Staffed		Vacancy Rate	
STAFFING	February-04	February-03	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	153	37*	90	22.0	14.8%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	12	14	0	0.0%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	1	3	1.0	20.0%
BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY						
WORK HOURS LOST	February-04		February-03	% Change	January-04	% Change
Annual leave	729		812	-10.2%	604.75	20.5%
Compensatory leave	419		321	30.5%	265	58.1%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	1508.95		1158	30.3%	1108.2	36.2%
Military leave	0		750	-75000.0%	32	-3200.0%
Holiday off	141		32	340.6%	123	14.6%
Training	1735.47		919	88.8%	1700.83	2.0%
Administrative leave	2		9	-77.8%	130.5	-98.5%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	3979		13148	-69.7%	2941	35.3%
<b>Total work hours lost</b>	8514.42		17149	-50.4%	6905.28	23.3%
OVERTIME	February-04		February-03	% Change	January-04	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	1832.83		1729.5	6.0%	2042.15	-10.2%
Compensatory overtime claimed	203.25		158	28.6%	190.17	6.9%
<b>Total overtime hours</b>	2036.08		1887.5	7.9%	2232.32	-8.8%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	February-04		February-03	% Change	January-04	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours**	18511		32524	-43.1%	18511	0.0%
Work hours lost	8514.42		17149	-50.4%	6905.28	23.3%
Overtime	2036.08		1887.5	7.9%	2232.32	-8.8%
<b>Total hours worked</b>	12032.67		17262.5	-30.3%	13838.04	-13.0%

\* Admin assignment includes, TDY, academy, & staff assignments

\*\* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

## **STAFFING / WORK HOURS**

### **TRAFFIC OPERATIONS**

The Southern Command lost 6 troopers to other agencies, 4 to North Las Vegas Police Department (NLVPD), 2 to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and 1 for personal reasons. Additionally, two Las Vegas trooper candidates assigned to the training academy have resigned. The Southern Command anticipates the loss of additional troopers to NLVPD, which has announced additional lateral academies in the near future. The Southern Command anticipates the loss of 1 trooper in March to the Sparks Police Department. Although these troopers are being replaced by personnel in the PSTO training program, these replacements have not allowed us to increase our deployment of troopers and merely allows us to maintain current staffing levels.

There were four trooper positions reassigned to specialized administrative assignments. One trooper position was reassigned from the Primm District to the Crash Investigations Detail. Other reassignments include one trooper to the Training Division, one as the full-time Building Coordinator / Liason, and a temporary assignment to the Dignitary Protection Detail that evolved into a full-time position.

### **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

The Southern Command is currently carrying one vacancy in the CVSI position. Seven commercial trooper positions are filled with the PCN changes that occurred in January. Those positions are currently in Traffic and will be counted as administrative commercial positions until they actually report. For the month of February, the Southern Command Commercial Operations had 2 sergeants, 1 acting sergeant, 11 troopers, 2 rural troopers, and 4 CVSI's. One sergeant and 1 trooper are on administrative assignment, 1 trooper is on extended sick leave, and 1 trooper is in training. One trooper is assigned to a full time background investigator position. Southern Command Commercial Operations activity is generated by 10 urban troopers, 2 rural troopers, and 2 sergeants.

### **OVERTIME**

Overtime decreased 8% in February compared to last month. Overtime increased this month compared to February 2003 by over 7%. The increase in overtime compared to last year was the result of inclement weather which required additional shift coverage.

## **FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY**

### **CRIMINAL INTERDICTION**

During the month of February, the Criminal Interdiction Team conducted 183 traffic stops and 49 motorist assists. These traffic stops resulted in 31 searches and 4 arrests; this resulted in the seizure of the following:

<b>Methamphetamine</b>	3.4 grams street value estimated at \$125.00
<b>Marijuana</b>	58,614 grams street value estimated at \$144,00.00
<b>Heroin</b>	7.2 grams street value estimated at \$700.00
<b>Cash</b>	\$33,500.00

## RATIOS – CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT

### CRASH RATIOS

February-04

Region wide crash ratios per Traffic position	
Total	11.2
Property	8.4
Injury	2.7
Fatal	0.1
DUI	0.3
Commercial vehicle	0.4
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.0
without seatbelts	0.5
with seatbelts	0.5

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Region wide enforcement ratios per Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.3
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.6
Other Arrests	8.0
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.7
Speed violations	27.4
Hazardous moving violations	19.4
Occupant restraint violations	6.1
Total violations	93.3

### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

Troopers logged 19,310 contacts with the public. In addition to field enforcement and response to traffic crashes, these incidents included: motorist assists, debris removal, medical assists, allied agency assistance, and traffic hazard mitigation.

The traffic enforcement ratios have been broken down further, to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

- In the Rural areas of the Southern Command Traffic troopers assigned had a crash ratio of approximately 4 crashes per staffed field operations position. Approximately 90 citations were issued per staffed position and approximately 1 DUI arrest was made per position.
- In the Urban areas of the Southern Command, the crash ratio was approximately 15 crashes per staffed traffic position. Approximately 93 citations were issued per staffed field position and approximately 2 DUI arrests were made per position.

## **RATIOS – CRASHES AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd***

### **INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

February-04

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	2.9
Other traffic violations - citations	*	16.3
Total safety inspections [all levels]		31.4
Terminal inspections TIP		0.4
Total safety violations -- citation	*	16.1
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.4
Total safety violations -- repair order		99.7
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		3.2
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		6.9
Average vehicles placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.2
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		4.2
Average drivers placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.1
Total school buses inspected		22.6
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		3.9
Total trucks weighed	*	14.6
Total overweight citations	*	3.7
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	38.2
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.0

\* Commercial sworn only

Many of these categories show a significant increase for the month of February 2004 as compared to January 2004. Of these increases, some of the notable areas include hazardous moving violations (up 36.7%), other traffic violations (up 66.4%), total inspections (up 29.7%), total safety violations cited (up 16.5%), and the largest increase for the month of February was reflected in the number of school buses inspected (up 189.5%). The Southern Command Commercial Enforcement troopers also increased their trucks weighed and have accomplished this task without the use of the L-decks.



## **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

### **COMMERCIAL CRASH ANALYSIS**

The Southern Command continues to see a decrease in the number of commercial crashes, with 25% fewer crashes compared to the same time last year. This decrease is significant in light of the overall 19% increase of crashes in the Southern Command.

The Southern Command investigated 1026 crashes in February 2004, with commercial crashes being approximately 5% of the total. Forty-five of the commercial crashes were property damage and 8 were injury. There were no fatal commercial crashes during the month of February. Of the 53 commercial crashes, 1 was caused by mechanical defect, 31 were caused by driver error, and 1 was the result of road debris. There were 4 commercial bus crashes; 1 driver was found at fault in these crashes. There were 12 single units and 37 combination vehicles involved in crashes.

### **FIELD ENFORCEMENT ANALYSIS**

In an effort to reduce commercial crashes, the Southern Command Commercial Operations section is emphasizing hazardous moving violations. Although fewer personnel are available, we are showing a steady increase in enforcement. Commercial Operations issued 9% more hazardous moving violations compared to January. Even so, this is a 19% decrease over the same time period in February of 2003. Total inspections decreased 26%, from last year, but vehicles being placed out-of-service increased by 5%. The CVSI's have increased the number of school buses inspected by a 208%.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

### **EVIDENCE VAULT**

During the month of February, the evidence vault booked in a total of 185 items for 117 cases. This is a 9% decrease in case volume from the previous month. There was a 9% decrease in actual items booked into the vault. A review of the submissions showed that NHP submitted 95.7% of these items, P&P 2.7%, and NDI 1.6%.

### **CONTRACT SERVICES**

Contract Services had a slight monetary decrease for February. Contract Services recorded 82.40 hours of contract time from 5 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Highway Patrol \$1,071.00, with \$3,733.25 still pending. We collected \$36,271.10 from services rendered in the month of January. This brings the NHP total Contract Service Overtime for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 to 2,093.90 hours worked. The 59 contracts resulted in the reimbursement of \$117,819.90.

**COMMUNICATION CENTER**

A Public Safety Dispatcher orientation was conducted on February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The PSD applicants were scheduled for one of three presentations pertaining to personnel issues, and issues on the background investigation process. Over 40 applicants were offered interviews which were completed by February 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Southern Command Communications Center had 20 vacancies in February but still maintained the following:

- 648 media calls (an increase of 26% from February 2003)
- 144,650 radio transmissions (an increase by 9% from February 2003)
- 33,207 tele phone calls (an increase by 17% from February 2003)

**RECORDS SECTION**

The Records section had 734 visitors requesting services in February. The section processed 1,088 crash reports. There were 44 office reports taken and 5,336 reports mailed. In addition to those transactions 165 vehicles were released, compared to 160 last month. During the month of February this section received 1,216 pieces of correspondence requesting copies of accident reports. Due to the loss of three Cadets to the NHP Academy a small backlog of correspondence existed at the end of this month. Our staff level was also reduced by a resignation of an AAI position at the end of this month.

**OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS**

Of 44 crash reports taken at the front counter, 18 were hit and run crashes. We cleared 3 hit and run reports for February.

**COURT SERVICES SECTION**

The Court Services Section received 268 bench warrants from area courts during February 2004. Two hundred fifty three warrants were cleared from the Criminal Justice Information System. This section also validated 4,068 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness. Court Services accomplished the above work load with one vacant position. Applications are being accepted for the position at this time. This section arranged 10 in-state transports and 3 subjects received credit for time served from the courts in lieu of being transported to the court.

**DATA ENTRY**

The data entry section entered 1,127 citations and 1,110 crashes for the month of February.

**AVERAGE BAC**

The average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of drivers arrested in February was 0.154%. Drivers arrested prior to crashing had an average BAC level of 0.59%, and drivers arrested post accident had an average BAC level of 0.126%. Out of all the drivers arrested, less than 3% tested positive for controlled substance. In addition, 8% of drivers arrested had a prior conviction for Driving Under the Influence of alcohol (DUI); this is up 2% from last month. The average age of all drivers arrested for DUI in February was 35 years old.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **NEW HIRES**

Welcome back Trooper Jeremy Elliott

### **RESIGNATIONS**

Loran McAlister	Michael Farage
Steven Spannbauer	Carolyn White
Timothy Beckett	Jason Johansson
Steven Gordon	Rhonda Martinez

### **RETIREMENTS**

Kara Thaw

## **COMMENDATIONS**

- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Charles Gordon for going the extra mile in helping the public.
- A citizen wrote to thank Sergeant Sugg for his assistance and professionalism during a major snow storm.
- A citizen that was involved in a crash wrote to thank Trooper Scot Martin for his assistance and quick response time.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Wiltse for his politeness and professionalism during a traffic stop.
- Lieutenant Harney wrote commendation letters to Acting Lieutenants Steve Aldridge, Harvey Weatherford, and Sergeant Rick Lattin for their involvement in the motorcade provided for First Lady Laura Bush.
- Major Tilt wrote commendations letters to LVMPD officers thanking them for their involvement in the motorcade provided for First Lady Laura Bush.
- Acting Captain Tice wrote a commendation letter to Sergeant Rikalo for the dedication and good judgment that he used while acting as Incident Commander during a recent public safety emergency, when a commercial tanker carrying gasoline crashed.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **“Get To the Point: The John Daly Radio Show” 970 am**

Every Tuesday night with NHP: Questions from listeners on traffic law and traffic safety.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> of 2004

### **Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman’s Briefing**

Personnel reporting to Nellis Air Force Base were presented a class on Nevada traffic laws with special emphasis on seat belt safety and the dangers of driving while intoxicated.

February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004

### **Special Olympics Torch Run Luncheon**

Meeting with Special Olympics for the Police Officers of Las Vegas volunteers program. Over 30 troopers have committed to participate in the upcoming events.

February 9<sup>th</sup> 2004

### **Visitors from the Spain/Media and Journalist**

Octavio Diaz, Journalist and Antonio Ros Pou, Journalist from Spain spent the Day compiling information about Las Vegas NHP. An NHP article in the springtime will appear in their magazines. Trooper Silvo Diaz assisted in this project.

February 11 and 12, 2004

### **Clark County DUI panel**

Meeting with the Community leaders about the “Problems of DUI” Sandi Heverly from Stop DUI and Bruce Nelson of the DA’s Office sat on this Panel as well.

February 13, 2004

### **Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman’s Briefing**

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February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### **Tip a Cop: Special Olympics**

Fifteen troopers and the Command Staff volunteered their time to Tip a Cop, held at Applebee’s, over \$4,200.00 were raised.

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### **Harney Middle School Job Fair**

A mock interview style presentation to over 500 students was given. The students were to ask questions about our career. Troopers Hixson and Snow assisted with the interviews.

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Nevada Highway  
Patrol

Southern Command

2601 E. Sahara Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89104

PHONE:  
(702) 486-4100

FAX:  
(702) 486-4038

## ***EVENTS***

- Baker to Vegas - April
- Laughlin River Run - April

*"Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare"*

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*Unknown*